

REMARKS:

- 1) The claims have been amended as follows.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of prior claims 1, 3, 4 and 5.

Claim 2 has been amended for improved conformance with the amended independent claim 1.

Claims 3 to 5 and 12 to 17 have been canceled. (Claims 7 to 11 were already previously canceled).

The dependency of claim 6 has been corrected in view of the amendment of claim 1 and the cancellation of claim 3.

New claims 18 to 21 have been added. These new claims are supported by the subject matter of the prior claims as well as the original written description, for example at page 8, line 20 to page 11, line 9. The new claims have been drafted "from the ground up" as a fresh approach at covering the inventive subject matter in a somewhat different claim style in comparison to the original claims, which were essentially a literal translation of corresponding foreign claims.

In view of the above mentioned original support, the present claim amendments and new claims do not introduce any new matter. Entry and consideration thereof are respectfully requested.

- 2) Referring to the first paragraph on page 2 of the Office Action, the rejoinder and examination of claims 3 to 6 and 13 to 17 along with claims 1, 2 and 12 is appreciated. In view of the rejoinder and examination of all claims, it is considered that the previous Restriction Requirement has been withdrawn or obviated. All of

4229/WFF:ar

- 8 -

the present remaining claims are directed to aspects of the invention that have been examined, and are thus subject to further consideration and examination herein. None of the claims are withdrawn.

- 3) Referring to page 3 of the Office Action, the rejection of claims 13 to 17 as indefinite under 35 USC §112, second paragraph has been obviated by the cancellation of those claims. Please withdraw the rejection as inapplicable.
- 4) Referring to the bottom of page 4 and top of page 5 of the Office Action, the indication of allowable subject matter in prior claim 5 is appreciated. Present amended independent claim 1 incorporates the allowable combination of subject matter of prior claims 1, 3, 4 and 5. Accordingly, claim 1 and its remaining dependent claims 2 and 6 should now be allowable.
- 5) Referring to the bottom of page 3 and top of page 4 of the Office Action, the rejection of claims 1 to 4, 6 and 12 as anticipated by JP 60-177897 has been obviated by the cancellation of claim 12 and the amendment of claim 1 to incorporate the allowable subject matter of the non-rejected claim 5. Thus, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.
- 6) The new claims 18 to 21 also recite allowable features of the invention. Particularly, independent claim 18 is directed to a method of pressing an object comprising a particular combination of method steps, including steps of electrically controlling a

4229/WFF:ar

- 9 -

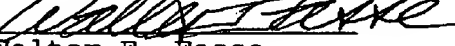
piezoelectrically actuated discharge control valve, a piezoelectrically actuated supply control valve, and a piezoelectrically actuated pump, in such a manner so as to pump working fluid into a pressing piston device, thereby advancing a pressing piston of the device so as to press the object. As acknowledged by the Examiner, the prior art of record does not disclose and would not have suggested such a combination of method features, including steps of electrically controlling piezoelectrically actuated supply and discharge control valves.

- 7) The additional prior art of record requires no particular comments because it has not been applied against the claims.
- 8) Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the application, including all present claims 1, 2, 6 and 18 to 21, are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,


Akiyuki HARADA et al.  
Applicant

WFF:ar/4229

By   
Walter F. Fasse  
Patent Attorney  
Reg. No.: 36132  
Tel. 207-862-4671  
Fax. 207-862-4681  
P. O. Box 726  
Hampden, ME 04444-0726

CERTIFICATE OF FAX TRANSMISSION:

I hereby certify that this correspondence with all indicated enclosures is being transmitted by telefax to (703) 872-9306 on the date indicated below, and is addressed to: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, P.O. BOX 1450, ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1450.

 8/23/04  
Name: Walter F. Fasse - Date: August 23, 2004

4229/WFF:ar

- 10 -